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rural renaissance through the national forests

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EASTERN REGION • FOREST SERVICE • U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE



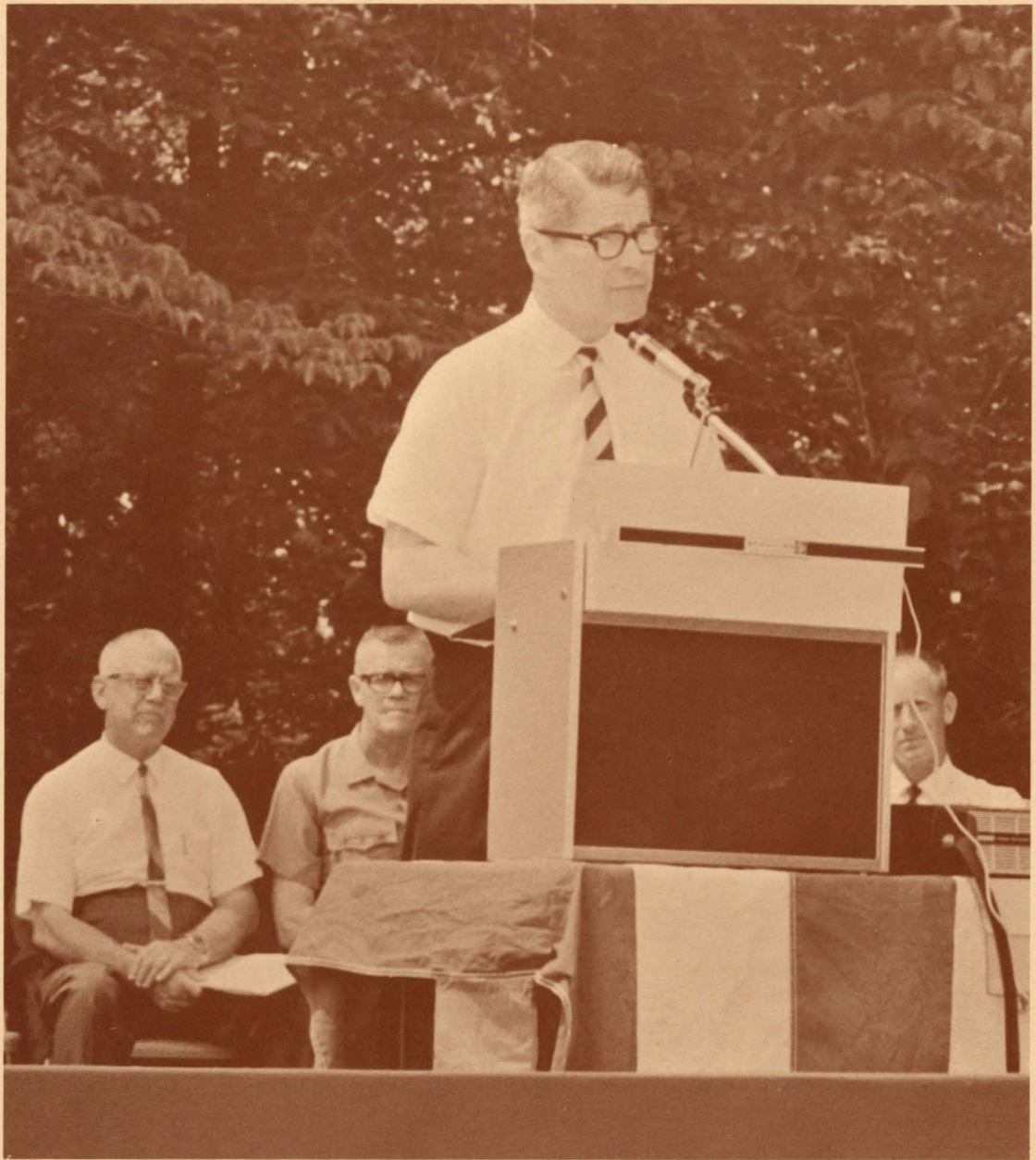


In the following pages we are reporting to you on the needs, opportunities, and goals to make Rural America within the Eastern Region a better place in which to live, work, and enjoy life. In so doing we hope to stimulate, enlighten, and encourage others to join with us in bringing about a Rural Renaissance which will be helpful to the future well being of our country.

Geo. S. James
GEORGE S. JAMES, Regional Forester



rural renaissance through the national forests



Behind Secretary Freeman—delivering the dedicatory address at Saddle Lake and Recreation Area on the Hoosier National Forest, Indiana, June 1967—are Bob Cummings, editor of Cannelton News, Indiana; Harold C. Nygren, Deputy Regional Forester, Milwaukee; and Karl Gayer, Chairman of Middle Fork Anderson River Conservancy District.

"Once again we are in a conservation crisis that is a matter of urgent public concern. At stake is the quality of our total environment. The crisis will not go away. It demands action now. It demands intelligent, purposeful direction at all levels of government and personal involvement by all citizens. Conservation is a physical task, a social philosophy, and an economic necessity."

conservation of man's total environment



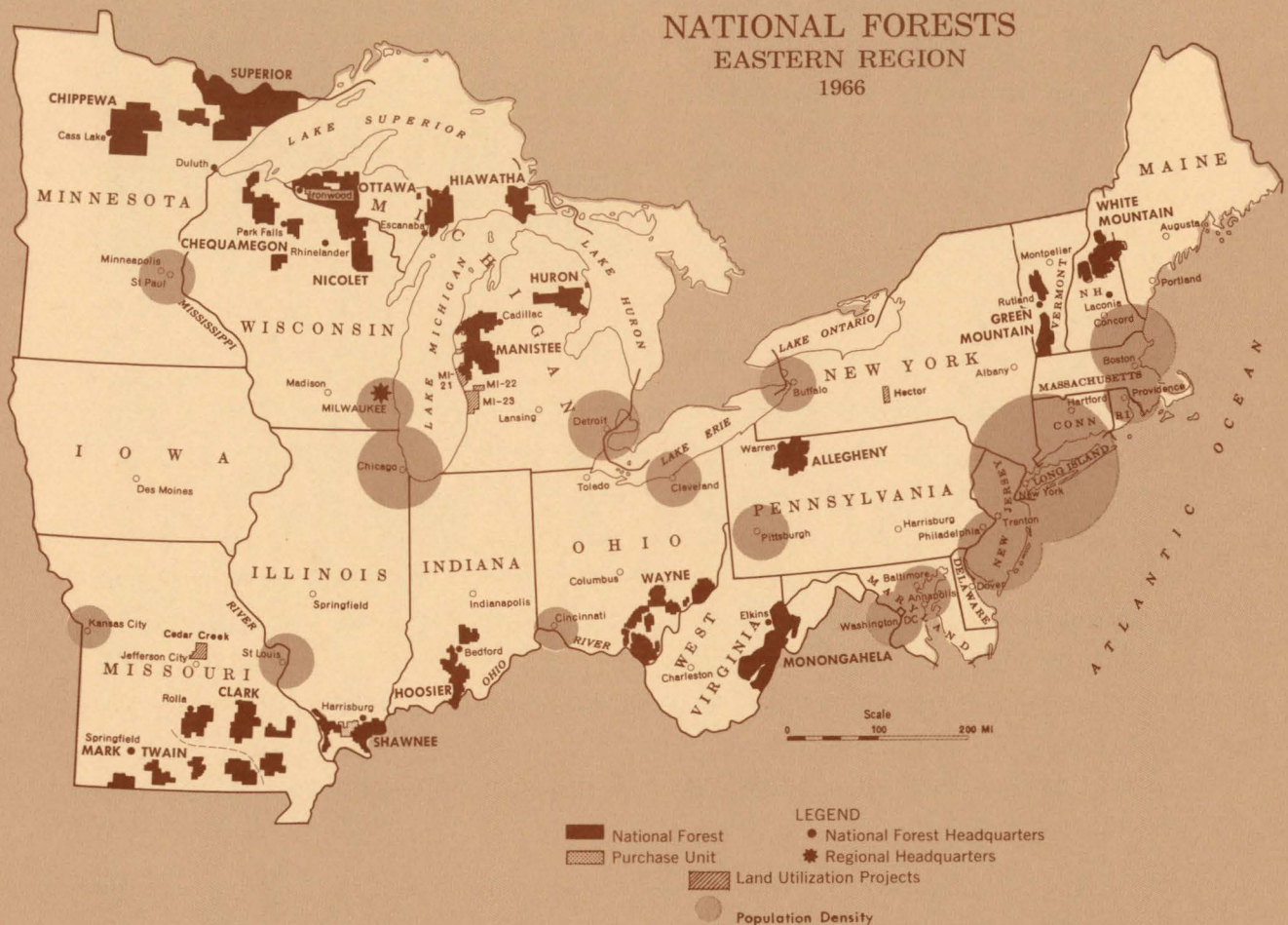
With these words Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman begins an outstanding report entitled *"Resources in Action—agriculture/2000."* This USDA publication tells of the needs, opportunities, responsibilities, and goals in an action plan. It tells of upgrading the quality of the environment and strengthening the economy and living standards in Rural America. It seeks solutions to America's water problems, just as it seeks to gain greater benefits from our forest land. Recognizing a need it dwells on the creative opportunities for outdoor recreation. It also hopes to expand public awareness and involvement in resource conservation. Finally, it touches on another problem, that of helping other nations solve their resource problems.

The Forest Service is the largest agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the oldest public conservation agency in the United States. In fact, its founder Gifford Pinchot, helped to popularize the word *"conservation."*

The Eastern Region is today one of nine important Regions within the geographical framework of the Forest Service—USDA. The Eastern Region is an area that encompasses twenty states ranging from Maine to Minnesota, down to Missouri, then east to Maryland. Within this important geographical area are seventeen National Forests and thirteen Job Corps Conservation Centers.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Edward P. Cliff, Chief

NATIONAL FORESTS EASTERN REGION 1966



The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the States and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives—as directed by Congress—to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation.

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the challenge



"I believe that by stopping—or even reversing—the tide to the cities we perhaps can give them a little breathing space in which to cope with their horrendous problems, and I have never been more sincere than in the belief that if we don't do something to restore rural-urban balance in this land, we are inviting national disaster well before the year 2000." (Secretary Freeman at the opening of the Rural Industrialization Meeting, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Sept. 27, 1967.)

There is the challenge which Secretary Freeman gives to all of us, and he goes on to say:

"We are playing Russian roulette with the future of this nation if we do not start now to chart a course for the proper use of the space of which we have such an abundance, and of which we use so little."

What he is referring to here is the fact that the great bulk of our population is concentrated on a very small percentage of our land. We in the Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service are very much aware of that. Within the boundaries of this Region dwell more than half of the 200 million population of the United States. Most of them are concentrated in megalopolises which keep getting larger, multiplying their problems, as well as those of the rural counties and communities. They draw too many of the young people from rural areas where they have little opportunity to utilize their talents and make careers.

The challenge then is to create a Rural Renaissance in America which will make the country more attractive for the people; and which will open up new opportunities to gain their hopes and aspirations.



the need



"Productive forests, pure air, clean water, stable soils, abundant wildlife, natural beauty, and the opportunity for man to live in harmony with his natural environment are essential. They are interrelated and mutually supporting objectives." (Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John A. Baker in testimony before the Public Land Law Review Commission at Asheville, North Carolina, May 29, 1967.)

Water is the key ingredient. Much of our outdoor recreation is water oriented. Industry must have it. Homes and communities must have it. Growing things must have it. Domestic animals and wildlife must have it. And it must be good water.

One of the principal reasons for creating the National Forests was to protect this country's watersheds and navigable rivers. Today, in the Eastern Region, through sound forestry practices and an accelerated recreation program, we are protecting and developing the waterways of the National Forests upon which many rural communities are dependent. These regulated waterways are also helping to stem the potential flood, which too often devastate the larger centers of population. We are also preserving some waterways in their natural state, so that they may qualify as wild, scenic, or pastoral rivers.

The population in the United States has passed the 200 million mark. By the year 2000 we may have as many as 130 million more people. Water needs for municipal use will double, and for manufacturing use they will quadruple. Outdoor recreation demands—so much of it water based— will increase 300 percent.



Eastern Region National Forests are becoming more productive every year, yielding an increased amount of wood and other products. This need is great, for by the year 2000 demand for wood products will double what it is today. Land used for wildlife refuges will have to increase 133 percent. Forests and grasslands also provide food for the people. Forage, for example, from the forest grasslands provides feed for cattle and other domestic animals. Food needs for the Nation will more than double by the year 2000.



Rural America is the only place where these needs can be met. And it will be the supplying of these needs that will bring about the opportunities to revitalize Rural America.

the opportunity



“What can we do? Ladies and Gentlemen, we can literally alter the face of this land. We can remove the eyesores. We can preserve the beauty. And we can use our space to create opportunities in the countryside—opportunities that we must create if we are to fulfill for the generation of the year 2000 the promises set forth in the Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution.” (Secretary Freeman in an address before the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Seattle, Washington, September 29, 1967.)

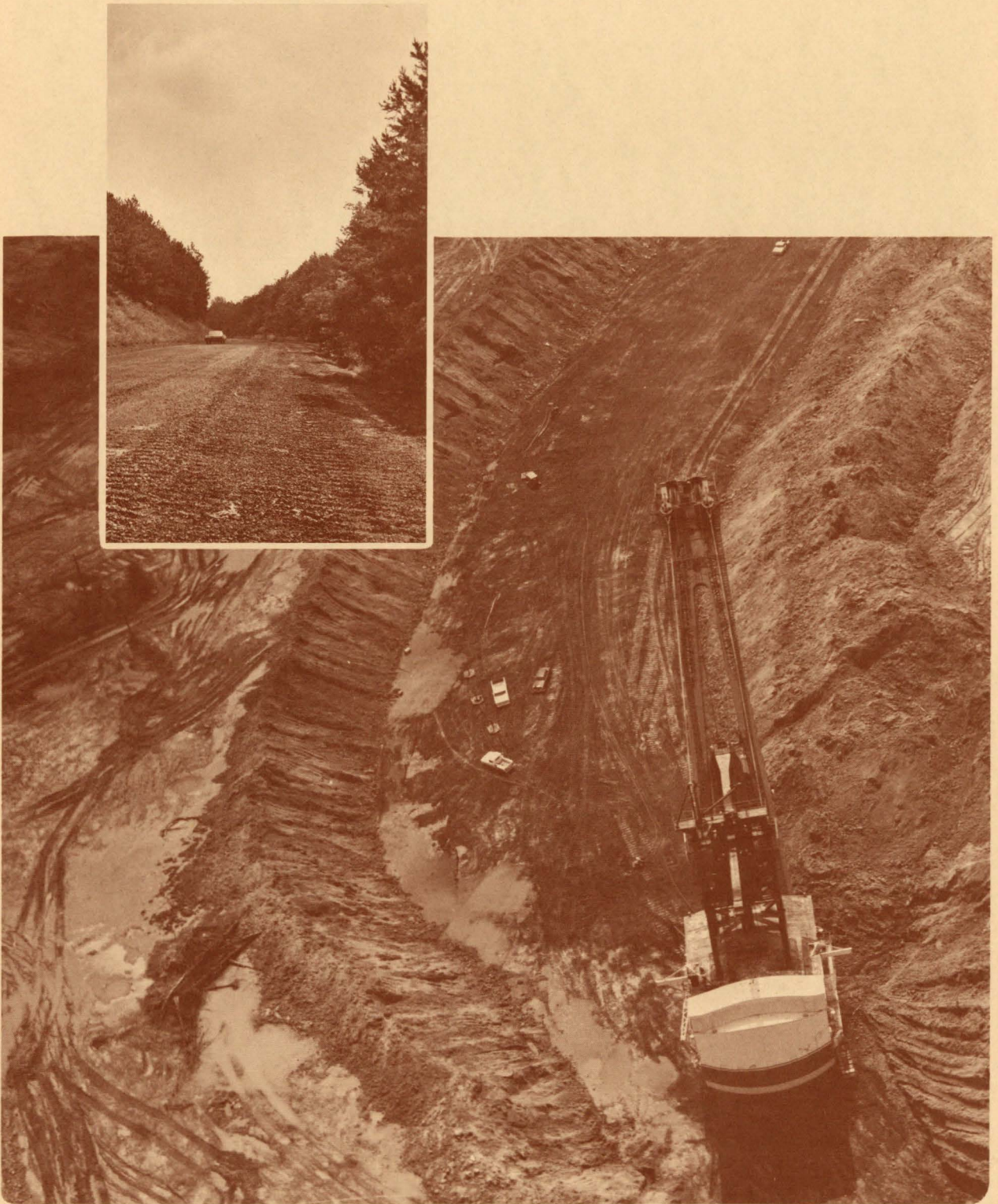
National Forests in the Eastern Region have altered, and are altering where necessary, the face of the land. Most of these Forests were created following the pioneer harvest when an expanding new nation with a voracious appetite for raw materials felled the trees and mined the soils. Fires ran rampant taking much of what was left and accelerated erosion disfigured the hills and the plains.

Then America started on a conservation crusade, led by men like Pinchot, Theodore Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold, and Hugh Bennett. New National Forests, including those of the Eastern Region, were created. By the fall of 1965, in the North Central States alone over a billion trees had been planted on over a million acres of once denuded, devastated forest land. Today these new Forests are beginning to provide essential raw materials and in so doing are helping to create opportunities for employment and profit in Rural America.

The need continues and the opportunity increases to accomplish even more within the boundaries of Eastern Region National Forests. One of our nation's important needs today is the rehabilitation of strip-mined areas, stopping the acid wastes, leveling the disfigurements and healing the scars. By so doing we are creating new opportunities for recreation by creation of lakes and ponds; and at the same time by planting cover crops and trees we are providing game habitat and future raw materials.

The pictures opposite show a before and after strip mine operation by the Sahara Coal Company in the Shawnee National Forest of southern Illinois. This example is typical of what can be done in providing an essential raw material while still leaving the land attractive and productive.

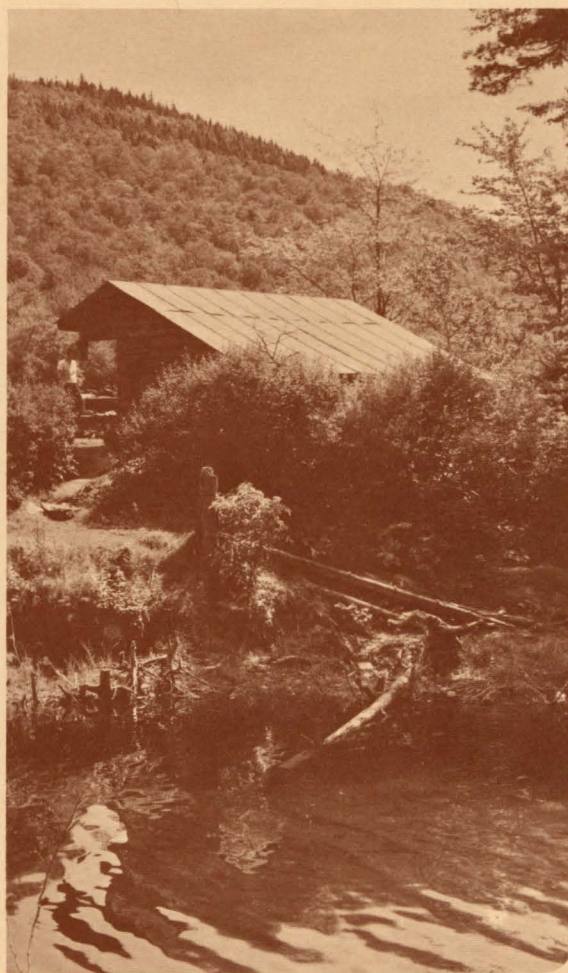
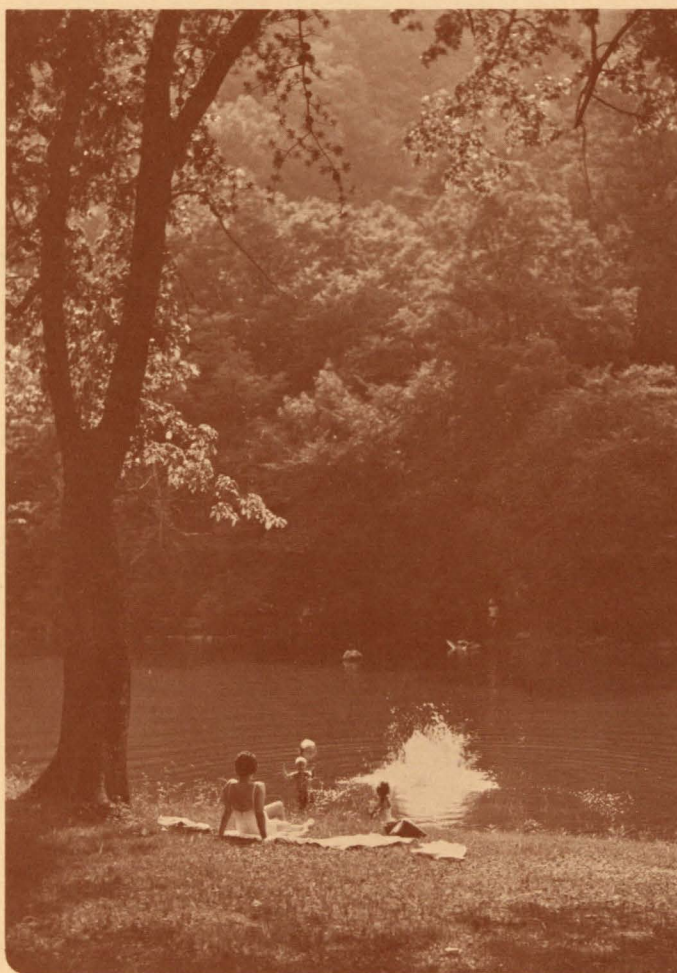






One of the great programs the American public can be proud of is that of the Job Corps Conservation Centers, 13 of which are located within the Eastern Region. These Centers are helping to rehabilitate both the land and the young men of America. During 1967 a number of eminent men visited and encouraged the Job Corpsmen in Eastern Region Job Corps Conservation Centers. They included retired boxing champion Archie Moore, Secretary of State James Kirkpatrick, Governor Warren P. Knowles of Wisconsin, and Secretary Freeman, pictured above.

Eastern Region National Forests are continuing to increase recreational opportunities in Rural America by building more recreational facilities, and by acquiring key tracts of land through use of the Land and Water Conservation Act and the Weeks Act Funds. The Public Land Law Review Commission, appointed by the President and with important private citizens and public servants as members, is making a careful study of this and other types of public land use. Mrs. Lyndon Johnson in promoting a more beautiful America, visited the new recreation area of Sylvania, dedicating it during 1967 as a prime example of what can be obtained for the people by such an excellent program supported by the people.





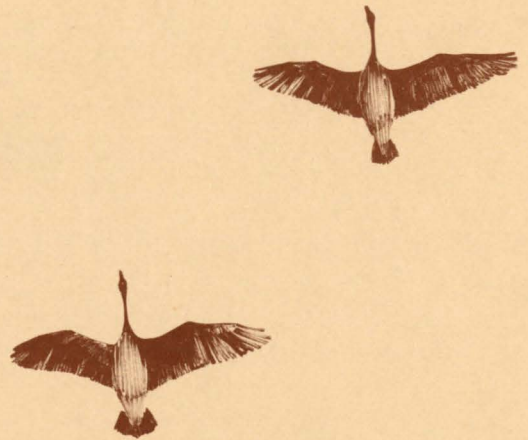
national forest programs



As the USDA Action Plan says, “...*through skillful coordination of uses and planned management of resources, we can and must reverse the downward trend in the quality and adequacy of the natural world in which we live.*”

We present here some examples of how we are coordinating uses and planning management of resources on Eastern Region National Forests to maintain and even improve “*the quality and adequacy of the natural world in which we live.*”

Skiing is great fun and has become big business on the White Mountain and Green Mountain National Forests in New England. Through Forest Service efforts to work cooperatively with local concessionaires and entrepreneurs they are expanding their facilities and improving this great recreational resource.



Protection is an important phase of National Forest management. The Forest Service in cooperation and partnership with local, State and other federal agencies has developed the science of fire control by utilizing modern tools and innovations. We are also protecting wildlife on the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota by blasting potholes to increase and improve the wetlands for waterfowl.

In Missouri we are enriching the local and federal treasuries by gaining royalties from carefully mined minerals on the Clark National Forest, while on the Mark Twain National Forest we have worked out a program to preserve the scenic beauties of the Eleven Point River.





On the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan we are developing new camping and other recreational opportunities in places like Sylvania and the Black River Harbor.

On the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia, Senator Byrd, Congressman Staggers, Forest Supervisor Ephe Olliver, and Regional Forester George James participated in the dedication ceremonies for the new Cranberry Mountain Visitor Center, opened for the first time in 1967, and already a major tourist attraction in that State.

In all of these, and many other programs throughout every one of the Eastern Region National Forests, *"... skillful coordination of uses and planned management of resources..."* are helping to *"...reverse the downward trend in the quality and adequacy of the natural world in which we live."*

The USDA Action Plan states further, *"Only through widespread positive actions designed to blend uses harmoniously can we protect and sustain our natural environment and produce optimum combinations of goods and services from the Nation's soils, forest, range, water, wildlife, and other resources."*





responsibilities



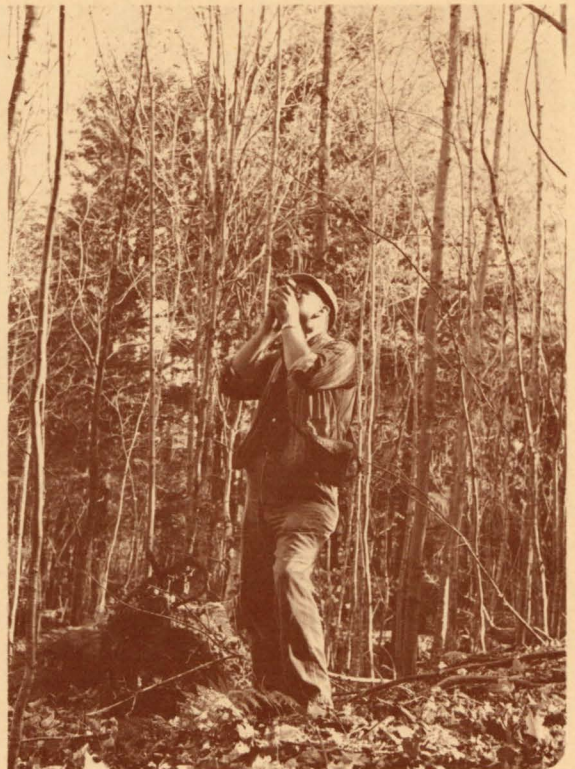
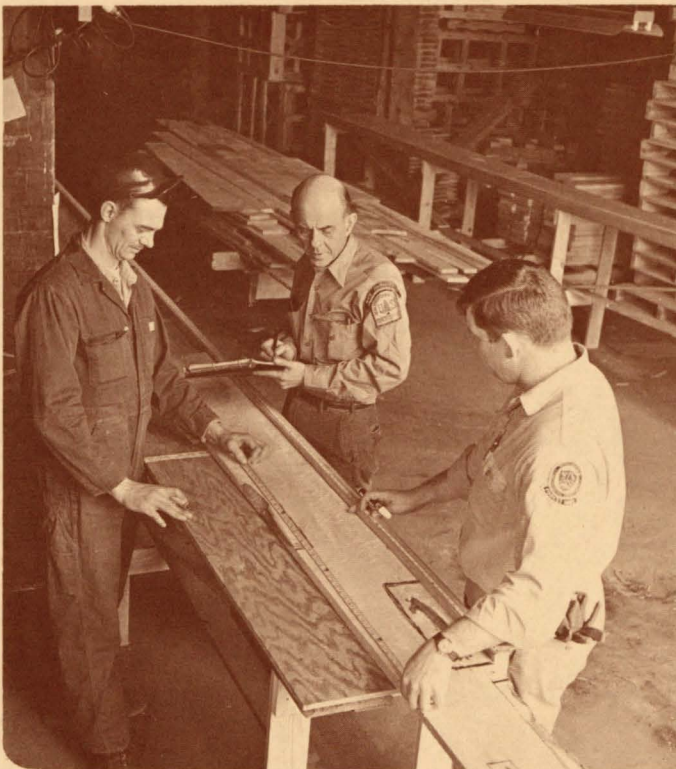
All good citizens of the land are responsible for practicing good conservation. But some of us are more responsible than others. All of us who work with people and the land in Eastern Region National Forests feel these responsibilities keenly, and they are important. But Forest Service responsibilities go even beyond the boundaries of the seventeen National Forests in this twenty-state Region. The Forest Service—USDA gives national leadership to encourage and foster good forestry and land management on all the forest land of the nation, be it public or private.

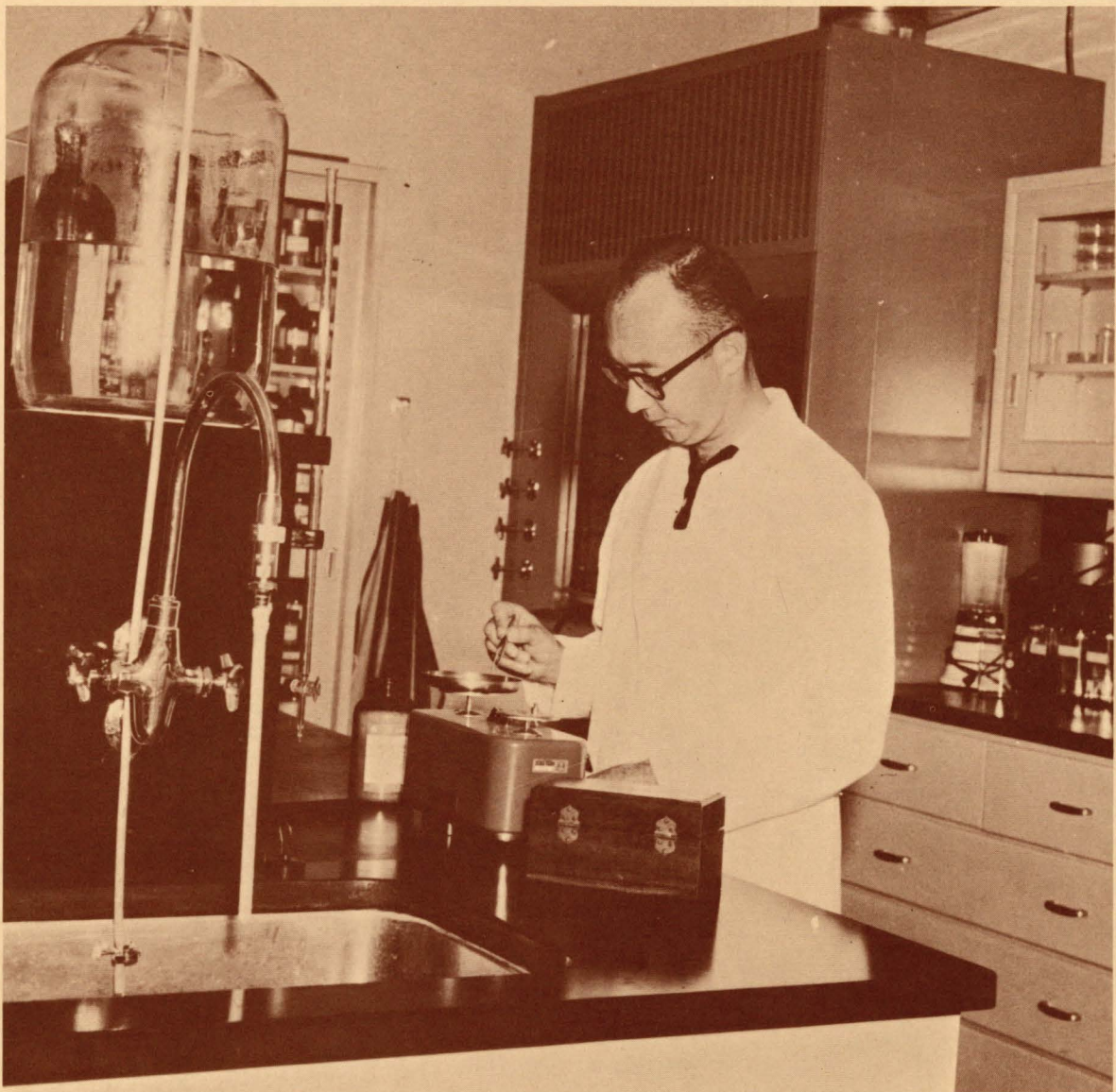
Those of us charged with National Forest Administration also must be good neighbors with those other owners of forest land in the Eastern Region. We are pleased to work with and consult with state and private foresters in fostering good forest land management, as well as protection.

So important is the cooperative forestry task in northeast United States, an Area Director has been given the responsibility for it. He makes his headquarters in an autonomous office in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, where he has a staff of skilled people to assist State Foresters and others. Since there is much more state and private forest land than National Forest land within the boundaries of the Eastern Region, the Area Director's job in Upper Darby is very important. He must advise and assist these many private forest land owners, working through the various State Foresters in the many cooperative programs approved by the Congress.

Research is also important in the science of forestry. We in the Eastern Region feel most fortunate in being so close to Madison, Wisconsin, where the outstanding Forest Products Laboratory is located. This famed Forest Service—USDA institution is known world-wide for the outstanding work it has done in developing utmost utilization of wood products. It is the largest institution of its kind in the world.

We are also fortunate in having within this Region two Forest Experiment Stations, one at Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, and the other at St. Paul, Minnesota. The Directors of these Experiment Stations and their staffs are responsible for conducting forest research in the field much of which is in cooperation with various universities and colleges. We in National Forest Administration are pleased to cooperate with them in fostering research programs on the National Forests, particularly in the experimental forests set aside for that purpose.

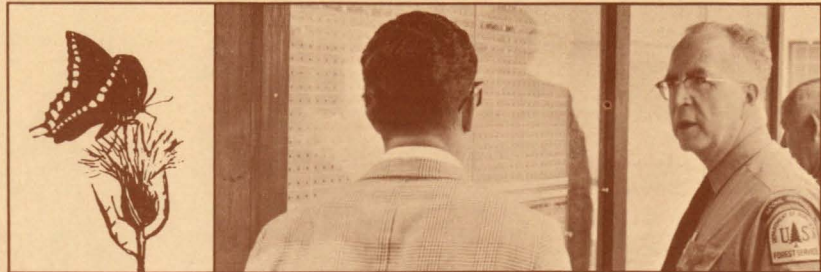




We need more, and not less research in forestry. We intend to keep our programs expanding so that we may better envision the needs of the future, and help meet those needs by continually upgrading the quality of living and the enhancement of opportunities in Rural America.



policies and goals



"An observant eye is needed to see the various forest patterns and relate them not only to nature, but to society and its needs. In economic terms, these patterns mean a steady flow of saw logs, veneer bolts, pulpwood, fuelwood, and other timber products. And though timber is an important resource, other forest factors dictate that forest management must be compatible with additional resource values, such as water, wildlife, the recreation environment, and esthetic qualities." (Forest Service Chief Edward P. Cliff in "Outdoors USA," the USDA 1967 Yearbook.)

One of the evolving policies and conservation goals of the USDA Action Plan is *"To extend the multiple-use concept of resource planning to all land resources to obtain the best possible patterns of planned resource use and rural development."*

Why do we practice multiple use? The USDA Action Plan puts it this way:

"To develop our resource capacity sufficiently to assure abundant supplies of food and timber, as well as clean water, pure air, more outdoor recreation, and a more wholesome and beautiful environment."

The Eastern Region National Forests are increasing their annual cuts of timber each year, thereby enabling local units of government to realize greater dividends from National Forest receipts through increased timber sales, since by law 25% of all such receipts go to the local units of government. At the same time these increased timber sales are creating more jobs in Rural America.



Top—Left to right: Congressman Morris K. Udall; Dr. Maurice Goddard; Mr. H. Byron Mock, Vice Chairman; Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall, Chairman. The picture was taken at the public hearing of the Public Land Law Review Commission, held in Milwaukee during October, 1967.

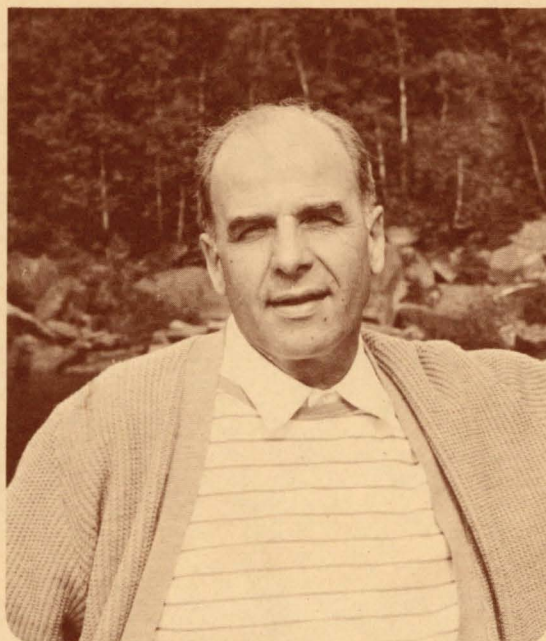
Bottom—Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman demonstrates canoe paddling technique for Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson at Sylvania Recreation Area dedication. Regional Forester James at podium; Senator Philip Hart behind Mr. James with arms folded; Congressman Philip Ruppe with camera. Mrs. Johnson dedicated the new recreation area in September 1967. The handcrafted birchbark canoe was a gift to her from local civic groups.

Eastern Region National Forests are continuing to increase recreational opportunities in Rural America by building more recreational facilities, and by acquiring key tracts of land through use of the Land and Water Conservation Act and the Weeks Act Funds. The Public Land Law Review Commission, appointed by the President and with important private citizens and public servants as members, is making a careful study of this and other types of public land use. Mrs. Lyndon Johnson in promoting a more beautiful America, visited the new recreation area of Sylvania, dedicating it during 1967 as a prime example of what can be obtained for the people by such an excellent program supported by the people.

The Forest Service is obtaining greater benefits from National Forest lands in many other ways, for the benefit of all people but particularly those citizens of Rural America.



Mrs. Hubert H. Humphrey, Secretary Freeman, and Mrs. Johnson study the Sylvania dedication plaque just after the First Lady unveiled it.



U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin has shown great interest in National Forest Programs, visiting Sylvania and similar areas to gain first hand knowledge of them.



the existing situation



"Rural America continues to have many underdeveloped natural, human, economic, and social resources." (Secretary Freeman in a Memorandum dated February 27, 1967.)

We in the Eastern Region of the Forest Service are well aware of this, and are attempting to do something about it. The Secretary is right, when he says:

"Full development of these resources will provide new strength for rural communities and the nation."

The National Forests in the Eastern Region came about mostly as a result of the passage of the Weeks Law in 1911. This enabled the Forest Service—USDA to buy available land within designated proclamation boundaries when state legislatures passed enabling legislation.

Much of the actual land acquisition was made during the depression years of the 1930's, when land lay idle following excessive logging, overgrazing, and other forms of abuse. With newly acquired lands in the newly established National Forests, the Forest Service then undertook a massive rehabilitation program. These lands benefited so much that today they are again productive, and are contributing, as has already been shown, to rural prosperity.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, passed in 1964, has enabled the National Forests of the Eastern Region to acquire other key land and water areas to enhance and increase public outdoor recreation.

This is the bright side of the picture. But there is another side too.

When land was acquired for National Forest purposes, it had to be bought from owners with various sizes of holdings, and not all land was available for purchase. This resulted in a checkerboard ownership pattern which has often caused difficult management problems. Some programs are of such nature they should encompass all of a watershed or other unified land area.

Land exchange has solved the problem somewhat, but not entirely. In Ohio, for example, it has been difficult for the Wayne National Forest to acquire sufficient land to bring about much needed land rehabilitation in the unglaciated or southern portion of the State. This has kept rural areas there from best utilizing their opportunities to improve their economic base, especially since nearly a quarter million acres of strip-mined land needs rehabilitation.

In southern Illinois, much the same situation exists in the Shawnee Gap area, which divides the two main parts of the Shawnee National Forest. This keeps that National Forest from developing the additional programs necessary to raise the economic level of the rural communities dependent upon it for their prosperity.

These are not isolated examples. Throughout the Eastern Region we could point to other such situations that need to be better managed if we are to gain the total Rural Renaissance that we are talking about.





The action is fisheries research: a cooperative project shared by Michigan Conservation Department; Job Corps (Ojibway Center, Ottawa National Forest); and Forest Service (Ottawa National Forest). The scene is Loon Lake in Sylvania Recreation Area.

solutions to the situation



"The development of recreational facilities is an important aspect of our entire Rural Areas Development Program. In counties throughout the Nation we have set up technical action panels, made up of Federal and State technicians, whose function is to assist communities in Rural Area Development, including of course outdoor recreation." (Assistant Secretary Baker.)

This is one of the best solutions for bringing about a Rural Renaissance in America. In one word we are talking about "cooperation."

The function of Technical Action Panels is to cooperate with and assist rural residents and communities in learning about and utilizing programs of improvement; identifying problems in rural areas that cannot be solved by existing programs; and extending the "outreach" function of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in assuring that Department programs are effectively reaching out to the people and communities needing these services.

The Eastern Region of the U.S. Forest Service is cooperating actively with such effective planning groups as the Upper Great Lakes, the Appalachia, the New England and the Ozarks Regional Commissions, and the Northern Great Lakes Regional Development Committee. This cooperation leads to the pooling of resources and talents to bring about more stabilized and prosperous rural communities.

One solution to better management is to increase land acquisition to create more effective units of management, and to make more complete the land and water restoration programs thus healing the sick lands of Rural America and raising the economic base for the future. We are also using the new concept of scenic easements to protect natural beauty in those areas where recreational resources have high potential, but which are still ideally left in private ownership.

By securing more complete coordination of entire watershed programs either through increased National Forest ownership or scenic easement partnerships, we can make programs for these watersheds much more effective.

Some of these programs include either direct action on our part, or increased assistance in bringing about the stabilization of all strip-mine spoils and the prevention of acid drainage from deep mines.

Much of Forest Service research efforts are devoted to improving the hydrologic conditions on National Forest lands because water is one of the most important products.

We are encouraging creative opportunities for outdoor recreation, a major goal of the USDA Action Plan. We encourage private enterprise to furnish tourist facilities, and we are investing in public use facilities on the National Forests, such as roads, campgrounds, bathing beaches, picnic areas, etc.

Eastern Region National Forests are becoming more productive and this is leading to increased annual cuts of timber which in turn is creating more demand for expanded timber industries and an increase in job opportunities.

The Eastern Region of the Forest Service is also cooperating in the important U.S. Department of Agriculture program of helping other countries best utilize their natural resources. This too, we feel, is important in solving our own Rural America problems, for in helping others we help ourselves.





summary and conclusion



America is today the greatest nation on earth. The American people forged this nation out of a wilderness by utilizing the abundant resources a kind Providence had made available for them.

Without utilization of available natural resources, no civilization can come about. Equally true is the fact that no nation can survive without them to provide it with necessary raw materials. How a nation treats its resources determines how long it shall survive as a great civilization.

Today much of America is going more and more urban, but it is as dependent upon natural resources as ever before. In some cases she has abused her resources by polluting her water, and by mistreating her land. This must be altered, and remedial efforts must be expanded—in some areas on a massive scale, if citizens are to enjoy the good life in rural and urban environments.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has charted a course for the year 2000 by developing an Action Plan which, if followed, should heal the wounds of Rural America, having a profound influence on Urban America, spreading prosperity and opportunity for good living to all Americans.

The Forest Service, the largest single agency within the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has dedicated itself to bring about a Rural Renaissance of prosperity and opportunity in America.

Those of us in the Eastern Region of the Forest Service need and welcome your interest and support to this end.

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ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES!

For Further Information Write the
Regional Forester, Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 633 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203